

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the Office Action of 15 December 00, and I would like to express my appreciation to the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. By this amendment all claims except those indicated as allowable or objected to by virtue of depending from a rejected base claim have been canceled. Moreover, the claims objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim (18 and 30-35) have been rewritten to incorporate all of the limitations of the base claim from which they originally depended. Accordingly it is believed that all of the remaining claims are in condition for allowance.

This paper is being filed in conjunction with a request for continued examination. In addition, an Information Disclosure Statement is being filed herewith citing art from a technologically related copending application owned by the assignee of the current application. It is thus presumed that the finality of the previous Office Action will be withdrawn and the references and the IDS considered. Even so, it is submitted that the claims as amended are still patentable in light of this art, and thus that a notice of allowance should issue in due course. Such communication from the Examiner is respectfully requested.

It should be noted that the cancellation of the claims rejected in the 15 December 00 Office Action should not be construed as an admission that they are not patentable. Rather, in the interest of progressing this application to issuance, those claims have been canceled without prejudice to their presentation in a continuation application in which it is believed their patentability will be established over the art of record.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments and remarks answer the objections and rejections set forth in the Office Action and, therefore, support allowance of the requested claims.

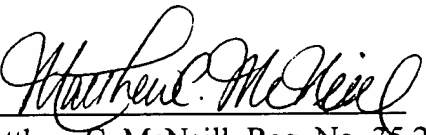
In re Kern, et al.
Serial No. 09/394,027

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (414) 362-0610.

Signed at Milwaukee, in the County of Milwaukee and State of Wisconsin, on June 27, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,

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